



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
MAYOR JERRY SANDERS

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Members

Mel Katz, Chair

Matthew Hervey • Susan Atkins • Susan Lew • Judy McCarty • MaryAnne Pintar • Katie Sullivan

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY Wednesday November 7, 2007

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners:

Present: Susan Atkins, Judy McCarty, MaryAnne Pintar, Katie Sullivan

Absent: Matthew Hervey, Mel Katz, Susan Lew

Staff: Anna Tatár, Library Director; Meryl Balko, Deputy Director; Bruce Johnson, Deputy Director; Jay Hill, Director of Development; Cynthia Meinhardt, Project Officer II; Carol Young, Senior Management Analyst

Public: Shelia Padgett

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. in the Commission Room of the Central Library.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The September 2007 minutes were approved unanimously.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Shelia Padgett reported that the strategic plan and revised bylaws were approved at the annual meeting in September. Volunteer recognition was an issue that was also brought up at the meeting.

SERRA SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD

No Report.

CHAIR'S UPDATE

No report.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE: Anna Tatár

- Jay Hill provided a fund raising update. This fiscal year, \$550,000 has already been raised in contributions to the matching funds, and nearly \$2 million has been committed for all gifts. Included is the gift of \$1 million to the Rancho Bernardo branch, which will be set up as an endowment. Not included in the total to-date is an \$800,000 estate gift that will be coming later in the fiscal year.

The Library Foundation had a strategic planning retreat, and an audit of the Foundation is being completed by a private accounting firm.

- The Austin Chamber of Commerce visited SDPL and met with Commissioner Katz. Austin Public Library's per capita income is about the same as SDPL. They have a goal of raising \$10 million for their Central Library, and they have a 15,000 square foot standard for branch libraries, but due to funding constraints they have been building smaller branches.
- Ms. Tatár thanked Bruce Johnson and his staff for their dedication and hard work in implementing the new Integrated Library System.
- The Rancho Bernardo Branch Library \$1 million gift may be used to expand operating hours.
- Ms. Tatár reported that a majority of Library staff reported to work during the fires, even though many were personally impacted. This enabled the Library to keep a majority of the libraries open during that week, with all being open by Thursday.
- The opening of the North University Community Branch Library was very successful. Ms. Tatár acknowledged Commissioner Atkins' assistance in securing a \$100,000 gift from Biogen-Idec, plus the loan of artwork from BIOCOT/San Diego which was on display for the opening.
- The San Diego Children's Book Festival is being planned for May 4 at the North University Community site. The Library will partner with the Park & Recreation Department to conduct a literacy camp. Commissioner Hervey suggested working with KPBS to promote the festival.

- Ms. Tatár distributed a summary of vacant Library positions. Currently only seven benefited positions are vacant, with four more anticipated in December. There are some hourly vacancies, particularly in the Library Aide classification where turnover is common. It was noted that the list for the librarian classification are now kept open and will not expire, which should allow for faster filling of vacant librarian positions.
- The Logan Heights Branch Library Groundbreaking will be November 8 at 10:30 a.m. It will be the seventh library to be either newly opened or expanded as a result of the Library's 21st Century Plan adopted by City Council in 2002.
- Ms. Tatár wanted to acknowledge the dedicated effort of Jim Dawe, former Library Commission Chairman, and his son Jeremy Hayes Dawe, who helped ensure the passage by the voters of California of the California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction Bond Act (Proposition 14). Mr. Dawe served as State Chairman for the Proposition 14 Campaign and Jeremy worked as a volunteer joining the staff of the campaign committee's political consultant and spending several months living in Sacramento, working without pay 50 to 60 hours a week. Jeremy did whatever was needed in order to improve the chance of passage of Proposition 14. On the evening of March 7, 2000 Jeremy, along with his father, watched the election results at Election Central in San Diego. Unfortunately, earlier this year, Jeremy died unexpectedly at age 28 of a cerebral hemorrhage. Staff of the San Diego Public Library is very proud of the Dawe family's efforts on the Proposition 14 Campaign because the City received \$25.3 million - \$20 million for the construction of San Diego's new Central Library and \$5.3 million for the construction of the Logan Heights Branch Library.

AGENDA ITEMS

10.a Library System Update

Cynthia Meinhardt provided a Capital Improvement Project Update. A meeting was conducted with staff from the State Library to review the 90 percent plans and specifications for the new Main Library. The bid for the Logan Heights facility was low enough to leave \$500,000 for furnishings, fixtures and equipment. An additional \$500,000 will be needed to complete the interior.

10.b Budget Update

No report.

10.c Legislative Update

No report.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Tatár reported that her executive team discussed reinstating the volunteer recognition event. It was agreed that the Library cannot take on this large event due to staffing limitations, but more small events at each facility will be planned. Commissioner Sullivan suggested sending letters of appreciation or certificates to the volunteers in April.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sullivan adjourned the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anna Tatár".

ANNA TATÁR
Library Director

CY